An Essay
on
Cimicifuga Racemosa.

Respectfully Submitted
To the Faculty of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania:
on the
twenty ninth day of January
One thousand eight hundred & fifty three,
by
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of Syracuse, New York.

Cimicifuga Racemosa.

From Latin. Cimex. a bug. and fugio. to expel. from its supposed virtues to expel bugs. Actaea Rac. from Nuttalls genera of North American Plants. From the Greek Akte. the elder-bush. from a supposed resemblance in the foliage.

Synonyms. Cimicifaga Serpentaria, from Pursh.

Vulgo. Black Snake root.

Class XI. Polyandria.

Order. Di—Pentagynia.

Calyx. of three caducous sepals.

Petals, from four to eight or ten. (Sometimes wanting.) Caducous.
Carpels, many seeded, dry and dehiscent or berry-like and not opening.

Herbaceous. Flowers in the latter end of June and first of July. Fruit matures middle of September. Generally grows in rich woodlands, from Canada to Georgia, and in Western States; from four to six feet high. The flowers are white. Leaves decompound; flowers in terminal racemes.
According to Elliot, it is monogynous, leaves decompound; racemes virgately paniculate; capsule ovate.
The root is perennial, large and branching. Stem slender, smooth, naked

below and towards the summit. leafy near the middle, with one or two radical leaves on long erect petioles.

Petals. white, very small. oblong, pedicellate. bifurcate at apex. Stamens, numerous. white. twice as long as the ovary. Fruit ovoid, somewhat compressed. dry and capsular, obliquely beaked by the short persistent style. The white racemes of this plant. when in flower. are quite conspicuous in our woodlands. The plant itself has a very disagreeable odor when bruised. The root is somewhat mucilaginous. and considered an astringent by the old School; and is a very popular medicine with them both for man and beast.

They use it in infusion or decoction, chiefly as a pectoral remedy for human patients, and many consider it almost a panacea for sick cattle. The tincture used in the following provings was made from the dried root, gathered in the Spring.

First Prover. Mr J. B, aged twenty five years. Nervous, Sanguine Temperament.

Sept. 29th 1852. Took twenty five drops of the tincture at 3 P.M, At 10 A.M, next day, a dull oppressive headache came on, pain principally in the forehead, extending along over the vertex down to the occiput.

In the whole forehead, the pain is very severe. On walking out into the open air, pains in the muscles of the lower limbs, as from great fatigue. Felt more particularly in the anterior parts of the thighs. Great disposition to yawn. Inclined to drowse much. Sleep disturbed by dreams of accidents, seeing limbs broken, great suffering &c. On the following morning, awoke at 3, with severe cutting pains and great uneasiness in the lower part of the abdomen, (hypogastric region) with urging desire to go to stool. Stool very thin and partly undigested. Great uneasiness in the bowels all the forenoon, without much desire to

go to stool. But a sensation, as though should be obliged to soon. Next morning awoke at 3 with diarrhoea, of thin undigested character. Pain low down in the bowels. Diarrhoea continued through the day; stools once in four or five hours. Next day, no perceptible symptoms remained except a feeling of weakness and languor.

Second Proving. Oct 7th at 11 A.M. took one hundred drops of the first att. (5 to 95) Great nausea and disposition to vomit for two hours after taking it. Very sleepy during the forepart of the evening. Slept well till 3 in the morning. Very restless the remainder of the

night. At 6 dull oppressive head-
ache came on, extending from the
forehead over the vertex to the occiput.
Violent pain in the whole forehead,
pain, dull, with a sense of heavi-
ness. Great dizziness. Constant
disposition to yawn. Occasional
shooting pains about the sides of the
head, in the region of Ideality and
Sublimity. Pulse, rather accelerated.
Feeling of great prostration of whole
system. Appetite poor. Limbs feel
excessively fatigued. Forehead dry
and hot. Pains in head partially
relieved by throwing head back.
At times very chilly over the entire
body. Continually stretching and
yawning. Great uneasiness and

oppresion in the epigastrium.
Stomach feels greatly oppressed.
On attempting to read, immediately go to sleep. Disposed to get angry easily. Rather melancholy. Symptoms nearly all subsided by 2 P.M.
In the evening, great pain in lower part of bowels with great fullness of the abdomen. Sensation, as though diarrhoea would come on. Very bitter and disagreeable taste in mouth.
Very drowsy and sleepy. Slept well till 3 A.M. after that time very restless. This symptom appeared regularly every morning for two weeks. Second, third and fourth days after 3 A.M. each day, pain in lower part of bowels with diarrhoea

of a thin, undigested character, lightish color. Pains in the head grew less and less severe for three or four days and gradually subsided by the fifth. Upper lip very much swollen and inflamed for eight days. Skin cracked and came off. A small ulcer on each cheek, near the center. Very much inflamed for several days, bleeding almost constantly. Eruption, on the hands and wrists principally, resembling mosquito-bites.

Second Prover.

Mr E. H. B. twenty four years of age. Nervous Sanguin Temp. Sept 29th 1852. Took twenty drops of

the tincture at 9 A.M. One hour after fluent coryza, with violent tickling in the nares, which excited sneezing, going off in about half an hour. Great drowsiness after dinner. Weakness of the knee joints, preceded by unnatural warmth in the feet. Weakness in the lower limbs. When walking, have to proceed with great cautiousness for fear of falling. General feeling of intoxication. Dull, heavy, rheumatic pains in the upper, posterior region of the neck. Tearing in the centre of the vertex, about the size of a silver dollar. Jerking in the muscles of the left thigh. More particularly in the region of the inferior third.

Cold feeling of the left thigh and knee, as though a cold breeze was blowing on them. Stitching pain as of fine needles in the region of the heart; accompanied with slight twitching or pulsation in the external muscles of that region. Slight palpitation of the heart. Sleep imperfect. Waking at midnight. General burning and itching of the skin after rising in the morning, continuing half an hour

Third Prover. Mr E. P. G. aged eighteen years. Sanguine Billious Temperament.

Sept 29th 1832. Took twenty drops of the tincture at 10 A. M.

Soon after taking it, burning in the stomach, and excessively bitter taste in the mouth. Half an hour after, felt a sensation of rawness in the throat, as from excoriation. One hour after, dull pain in the forehead and ears. Third day, early in the morning, pain in the bowels with thin, light brown diarrhoea, which came on so for three or four days. Eruption on the skin like mosquito-bites.

From the above collection of symptoms, this remedy seems to be adapted to most particularly eruptions resembling mosquito-bites. Disturbed sleep.

Dreams. of accidents &c. Typhoid fever. Many of the symptoms seem to be of a periodical character. Diarrhoea, occuring early in the morning, with pain low down in the bowels. "Nervous headaches." Rheumatic pains in the lower limbs. General feeling of intoxication. Feeling of great prostration. Coryza and sneezing.

Skin. General itching and burning of the skin, after rising in the morning. Eruptions with burning, resembling mosquito bites.

Sleep. Waking at midnight, also at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Sleep very imperfect. Drowsiness in the day time. Dreams of accidents, sufferings, seeing limbs broken &c.

Fever. Pulse, slightly accelerated; small and frequent. Forehead dry and hot. At times, very chilly over the entire body.

Mental Emotions. Disposed to get angry easily. Melancholy.

Head. Violent pain in the whole forehead. Came on at 6 o'clock in the morning, with first prover. Pain dull and heavy, extending from the forehead over the vertex.

down to the occiput. Great dizziness. Feeling, as if intoxicated. Dull pains in the forehead and ears. (Third Prover)

Nose. One hour after taking it, fluent coryza, with violent tickling in the nares, which excited sneezing; going off in about half an hour.

Face. Small ulcer on each cheek, near the centre. Very much inflamed for ten days, and bled almost constantly. Upper lip very much swollen and inflamed for eight days. Skin finally cracked and came off.

Taste and Appetite. Bitter and disagreeable taste in the mouth. Appetite very poor.

Gastric Derangement.
Burning in the stomach, and excessively bitter taste in the mouth. Great nausea and disposition to vomit for two hours after taking it.

Abdomen and Stools.
In the evening, great pain in the hypogastric region. Great fullness of the whole abdomen, with sensation as though diarrhoea would come on. Severe cutting pains in lower part of the bowels at 3 o'clock in the morning, with great uneasiness and urging

to stool. Uneasiness in hypogastric region during forenoon, without much desire to go to stool; but a sensation as though should have to soon.

On second, third and fourth days after 3 in the morning, each day, pain in bowel part of the bowels with diarrhoea of a thin, undigested character, and lightish color.

Throat. Half an hour after taking the remedy, felt a sensation of rawness in the throat, as from excoriation.

Chest. Stitching pains, as from fine needles, in the region of the heart; accompanied with slight twitching or pulsation in the eternal

muscles of that region. Slight palpitation of the heart.

Neck. Dull, heavy rheumatic pains in the superior, posterior region of the neck.

Upper Extremities. Eruptions on the hands and wrists, resembling mosquito bites.

Lower Extremities. Weakness of the knee joints, preceded by unnatural warmth in the feet. Weakness in the entire limbs. When walking, jerking of the left thigh, more particularly in the region of the inferior third.

Cold feeling of the left thigh and knee, as though a cold breeze was blowing on them. On walking out into the open air, pains in the muscles of the lower limbs as from great fatigue, felt more particularly in the anterior parts of the thighs.